

The regular meeting of the Page City Council was held on May 11, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. via Conference Call with Jim Heidorn, Julie Bankers, Natalie Nitschke, Lucas Erickson and Chris Erickson present. One guest was also present. Mayor Heidorn opened the meeting.

Motion by Bankers and second by C. Erickson to approve the April minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Auditor's report was given and the following bills presented for approval:

GENERAL FUND: Waste Management - \$94.94; Waste Management (Park) - \$73.96; BEK Communications - \$58.33; John Deere Financial - \$41.00; Payroll Taxes - \$80.32; Otter Tail Power Co. - \$1,054.67; City Auditor - \$1,050.00 (Monthly salary); Office of State Auditor - \$240.00; Cass County Reporter - \$36.00; Steele County Press - \$50.00; ERCU Visa - \$389.88 (USPS - Envelopes - \$333.53; Office Depot - \$56.35.) **WATER & SEWER:** Waste Management - \$1,383.55; Otter Tail Power Company - \$371.07; Cass Rural Water Users - \$1,237.60; Jim Heidorn (City Maintenance) - \$816.50; Payroll Taxes - \$72.04; City of Fargo - \$14.00; Judy Johnson (W&S Labor) - \$125.00; ND One Call - \$2.40; ND Sewage Pump and Lift Station Service Co. - \$300.00; ERCU Visa - \$375.91 (Post Office - \$26.35; Office Depot - \$17.49; USPS - Envelopes - \$332.07). Motion by L. Erickson and second by Bankers to approve Auditor's Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPUTY'S REPORT – Deputy Longlet was not present for the meeting but submitted his report via email. There were 4 calls for service in April. There were 2 traffic related complaints, 1 medical and 1 juvenile complaint. Deputy Longlet also shared with the Council the non-emergent number for dispatch – (701) 451-7660. If there are issues going on that citizens would contact the Council regarding this number could be given to them so they can talk to a deputy that is on duty.

The following items were discussed:

- 1) The former Catholic Church building is 90% cleaned out. The 30 yard roll-off was filled along with the two City dumpsters. Some cleaning left to do and then the next thing will be to decide what should be done with the building. Any suggestions will be welcome.
- 2) The Lift Station pumps are still running at about 7 hours each per day. The annual service on the lift station was done recently and the following findings were noted on their invoice:

“Pulled both pumps and inspected Impellers, bottom plates, slide brackets and bases. Checked oil, cycled gates and checks, cleaned and cycled floats; scraped wet well walls and tightened electrical panel. Tested system in all modes of operation and placed online in automatic. NOTE – Excessive amount of rags and/or wipes in system. Broken handle on Valve Pit Hatch and #1 Gate Valve difficult to turn. Recommend considering a hot block in the well to help break up grease.”

We need to continue reminding residents that it is extremely important that NOTHING besides toilet paper should be flushed down toilets.

Heidorn stated that he would check with ND Sewage Pump and Lift Station Service Company today to check on the Hot Block that they are recommending.

- 3) Motion by Bankers and second by Nitschke designating the Cass County Reporter as the City's official newspaper. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Mitch Calkins of Lake Agassiz Regional Council was present at the meeting to furnish the Council with the Close out of the grant to Page Housing for their Rehab project. No questions or

concerns were brought forward regarding the project. Calkins stated he will be emailing the close out paperwork for the Mayor's signature to complete the grant paperwork.

Mayor Heidorn also asked Calkins if there were any community development grants available for refurbishing the inside of the City Auditorium. Calkins stated that there may be some block grants available for the refurbishing and improving accessibility of the Auditorium along with some possible programs through Rural Development. A discussion was also had regarding the Brownfields grant opportunity which Lake Agassiz will be applying for this fall. There may be funds available through this program for the removal of asbestos or lead paint found in older buildings. Calkins will send more information regarding this program and any other grant opportunities he can locate that may be available for the auditorium.

City economic recovery funding will also be coming available soon. He advised that the City save receipts for any additional expenses related to the Covid-19 emergency. More information will be available soon from Economic Development Administration.

- 5) Mayor Heidorn stated that he has talked to Pro-Sweep about coming to sweep all the streets as was discussed at the last meeting. The cost will be about \$1,000 to \$1,200. They may be able to do next week.
- 6) Gravel has also been ordered for 5th Street going east out of town. This will be done at the same time KRB Gravel does some roads for Page Township. Later this summer gravel will be ordered for some alleys in town that need work done.
- 7) A request was made to have a Blood Drive in the City Auditorium as there was a conflict having it at Our Savior Lutheran Church this month. It will be held at the City Auditorium on May 21st from 3 pm to 7 pm.
- 8) No correspondence received.
- 9) Past Due water and sewer accounts were discussed. The meter of an account that was turned off a few months ago was rechecked recently and it was discovered that 10,000 gallons has been used since March 11th. The curb stop has been checked and is hopefully now completely turned off. Another account that has been turned off for some time has stated that they may be returning and would like water turned on. They were advised that account will need to be paid in full plus a re-connection fee before water is turned on. Past Due accounts this month are as follows:

Pam Belling – over 60 days past due
Jim & Chari Dunn – 21 days past due
Dustin Erickson – 21 days past due
Ken Hubbard – over 30 days past due
Lance Iwen – over 120 days past due
Corey Phelps – 21 days past due
Kristine Royal – over 120 days past due
- 10) Election June 9, 2020 – There will be no polling place for the June election. All voting will be done by absentee voting. The Organizational Meeting of City Council will be held Tuesday, June 23rd at 7:00 a.m.

- 11) Nitschke reported that concerns addressed at the last Council meeting regarding mowing at the Park were discussed with the Park Board. She also asked what the status is on the opening of the Park. After discussion, it was decided by the Council to leave Park and playgrounds closed at this time. Guidelines for re-opening will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- 12) Lucas Erickson asked when city lots available for sale will be ready. This will be placed on next month's meeting agenda. Once the wet conditions improve, lots will be mowed and cleaned up and pictures taken so as to be placed on the website, newsletter and FaceBook. A discussion was also held on the procedures for properties that have back taxes and when the County puts these properties up for auction. This is usually done in November. If the properties are not sold at the auction, they are offered to the City.
- 13) Chris Erickson asked how the burning of the dumpground went. Heidorn stated that it went well as the conditions were just right at the time it was done.
- 14) Bankers stated that she has received a couple complaints of grass being blown on to the streets when mowing. The Auditor stated that one has already been talked to and the other will also be informed. A notice will also be placed in the newsletter regarding this. Properties not being mowed was also discussed. Any properties that are not mowed in a timely manner will be mowed by the City and the property owner will be billed. The conditions at the RV Park were also discussed. Some clean-up is still needed and a camper still remains there that should be removed. The owner will be contacted to inform them this needs to be done right away.
- 15) Mayor Heidorn would like to thank all involved including the Fire Department in the surprise Birthday Parade by his house on his birthday last month. It was a total surprise and was very much appreciated. A big THANK YOU to all!
- 16) The Council would like to extend their sympathy to Julie Bankers and her family in the loss of her son-in-law in a boating accident last week.

There being no further business brought before the Council motion was made by C. Erickson and second by Bankers to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m. The next regular Council meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 AM. It is not known at this time whether next month's meeting will need to be done by Conference Call.

Judy L. Johnson
City Auditor